

THE  
*Medical and Agricultural Register.*

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[No. 7.

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M E D I C A L.

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For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

DR. ADAMS,

THE following extract is submitted to your disposal.

PASSAMAQUODDY.

*Extract from a Manuscript Oration, read a few Years since, before  
an Association of Physicians, instituted in one of the Counties in  
this Commonwealth, for Medical Improvement.*

“ A physician is never without an object on which to write, or which commands his attention as an artist or a philosopher. All nature is an open volume for his contemplation and inquiries : the silent and unfathomed recesses of the ocean and the earth ; the hitherto almost unattempted *arcana* [secrets] of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms of our country ; the *terra incognita* \* of the animal body and human constitution, and the varying state of the latter, owing to the numberless influences of physical and moral causes on it ; the present imperfect nomenclature of nosology [‘ arrangement of disorders,’] and materia medica [arrangement of medicines ;] the insidious and perplexing character which certain diseases have assumed, within half a century past ; and the incurable nature of others ; all call loudly on physicians for laborious diligence and patient investigation : nay, more, the imperfect state of our art requires that we be permitted to penetrate and explore the cold bosom of death ! that we may draw instruc-

\* Parts unknown, and facts unexplained,

tion from these tabernacles of clay, when they become insensible to pain, and ought not to excite our sympathy, and before they are consigned to the silent tomb!

"It is to be regretted, that while the various objects of pleasure and profit, which have arrested the attention of man, have been pursued in our country with an ardor equalled only by the spirit of enterprise which has actuated our countrymen, the interests of the healing art have been, till lately, almost wholly neglected. The practice of physic has been '*taken up*' by the lazy, the immoral, and the ignorant; charlatanical imposture has kept pace with the credulity of the vulgar, and the respectability of the business so vilely prostituted, that the term *profession*, as applied to medicine, is a burlesque upon every calling that is decent, regular, or learned. I shall not pause, to apologize to this respectable audience, for this plain statement of facts; persons of sense and discernment (so many of whom I am happy to have the pleasure of addressing) know that my observations are made without the least exaggeration. But it is to be hoped the age is at least beginning to dawn on us, when men will no longer be allowed to forsake the plough, and wield the lancet; and that for the future, something more will be required to qualify men for the exercise of one of the most important callings, than a common school-boy education, and lounging away a *few months* in an apothecary's shop, or in the *solitary*\* room of a *solitary*\* practitioner.

"It is time, my brethren, for the legitimate descendants of Æsculapius [the god of physic] to rouse from the lethargy which they have derived from, and which has so long oppressed, their fathers, and assert and maintain the rank to which they are entitled by the exercise of one of the most necessary arts. It is incumbent on them to support the dignity and respectability naturally allied to their profession, by their liberality, erudition, and good conduct; and by discountenancing, opposing, and suppressing, as much as possible, the unprincipled presumption of daring medicators. A reformation of the abuses in the practice of physic is certainly practicable, and ought to be attempted, and prosecuted with zeal and perseverance, lest posterity should charge us of having lived to no useful purpose, and stigmatize our names with stupidity."

*Massachusetts, June, 1806.*

\* Alluding to the very inadequate means for giving medical instruction, which some persons possess, who pretend to take pupils; having few or no medical books, a scanty medical apparatus, and but little business; being unconnected with medical societies, and having no interest in social medical libraries; and, worst of all, being *profoundly ignorant themselves*!



## HUMANE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

*Directions for recovering Persons who are supposed to be dead from Drowning; also, for preventing and curing the Disorders produced by drinking cold Liquors, and by the action of noxious Vapours, Lightning, and excessive Heat upon the human Body. Published by the Humane Society of Philadelphia. 1805.*

*Directions for recovering Persons who are supposed to be dead, from Drowning.*

1. As soon as the body is taken out of the water, it must be conveyed on a board or bier if at hand, to a house, or any other place, where it can be laid dry and warm, avoiding the usual destructive methods of hanging it by the heels, rolling it on a barrel, or placing it across a log on the belly.

2. The clothes must be immediately stripped off, and the body wrapped up in blankets, well warmed. It should be laid on its back, with the head a little raised. If the weather be cold, it should be placed near a fire, and an heated warming-pan should be passed over the body; but in warm weather it will be sufficient to place it between two blankets well heated, or in the sunshine, taking care to prevent the room from being crowded, with any persons who are not necessarily employed about the body.

3. At the same time, the whole body should be rubbed with the hand, or with hot woollen cloths. The rubbing should be moderate, but continued with industry, and particularly about the breast. Apply also heated bricks to the feet, belly, and breast. The immediate application of frictions is of the utmost importance, as many have been recovered by frictions only, when early used.

4. As soon as it can possibly be done, a bellows should be applied to one nostril, while the other nostril and the mouth are kept closed, and the lower end of the prominent part of the wind-pipe (or that part which is called by the anatomists, *prominuum adami*) is pressed backward. The bellows is to be worked in this situation; and when the breast is swelled by it, the bellows should stop, and an assistant should press the belly upwards, to force the air out. The bellows should then be applied as before, and the belly again be pressed; this process should be repeated from twenty to thirty times in a minute, so as to imitate natural breathing as nearly as possible. Some volatile spirits, heated may be held under the valve of the bellows whilst it works. If a bellows cannot be procured, some per-



son should blow into one of the nostrils, through a pipe or quill, whilst the other nostril and mouth are closed as before ; or if a pipe or quill be not at hand, he should blow into the mouth, whilst both nostrils are closed ; but whenever a bellows can be procured, it is to be preferred, as air forced in by this means, will be much more serviceable than air which has already been breathed.

5. During this time, a large quantity of ashes, water, salt, or sand, should be heated ; and as soon as it is milk-warm, the body must be placed in it ; the blowing and rubbing are then to be continued as before ; and when the water, ashes, or salt are cooled, some warmer must be added, so that the whole may be kept milk-warm.

Loud noises have sometimes proved successful in recovering such persons and restoring to life. When signs of returning life are apparent, the frictions must be continued, but more gently.

These methods must be continued three or four hours, as in several instances they have proved successful, although no signs of life appeared until that time. When the patient is able to swallow, he must take some wine, brandy, or rum and water. Bleeding or purging ought not to be used, without consulting a physician, who should be called in as soon as possible : but clysters of salt and water may be injected.

After life has returned, if convulsions come on, blood should be taken, by direction of a physician.

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*To prevent the fatal Effects of drinking cold Water, or cold Liquors of any kind in warm Weather.*

1. Avoid drinking whilst you are warm, or,
2. Drink only a small quantity at once, and let it remain a short time in your mouth before you swallow it ; or,
3. Wash your hands and face, and rinse your mouth with cold water before you drink. If these precautions have been neglected, and the disorder incident to drinking cold water hath been produced, the first, and in most instances, the only remedy to be administered, is *sixty drops of liquid laudanum* in spirit and water, or warm drink of any kind.

If this should fail of giving relief, the same quantity may be given twenty minutes afterwards.

When laudanum cannot be obtained, rum and water, or warm water should be given. Vomits and bleeding should not be used without consulting a physician.



*The dangerous Effects of noxious Vapours, from Wells, Cellars, fermenting Liquors, &c. may be prevented,*

By procuring a free circulation of air, either by ventilators or opening the doors or windows, where it is confined, or by changing the air, by keeping fires in the infected place, or by throwing in stone-lime recently powdered.

These precautions should be taken, before entering into such suspected places; or a lighted candle should be first introduced, which will go out if the air is bad. When a person is let down into a well, he should be carefully watched, and drawn up again on the least change. But when a person is apparently dead, from the above-mentioned cause, the first thing to be done is to remove the body to a cool place in a wholesome air; then let the body be stripped, and let cold water be thrown from buckets over it for some time. This is particularly useful in cases of apparent death from drunkenness—Let the treatment now be the same as that for drowned persons. The head should be raised a little; and continued frictions, with blowing into the nostril with a bellows, should be practised for several hours.

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
*In Case of Suffocation from the Fumes of burning Charcoal,*

The general treatment recommended for curing the disorders brought on by noxious vapours, is to be applied; but the dangerous effects of this may be prevented, by taking care not to sit near it when burning; to burn it in a chimney; and where there is no chimney, to keep the door open, and to place a large tub of water in the room.

In all these, as well as in cases of drowned persons, moderate purges and bleeding are only to be used, with the advice of a physician.

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*To prevent the fatal Effects of Lightning.*

Let your house be provided with an iron conductor; but when this cannot be had, avoid sitting or standing near the window, door, or walls of an house, during the time of a thunder gust. The nearer you are placed to the  middle of a room, the better. When you are not in a house, avoid flying to the cover of the woods, or of a solitary tree for safety.

When a person is struck by lightning, strip the body and throw buckets full of cold water over it for ten or fifteen minutes; let continued frictions and inflations of the lungs be also practised: let gentle shocks of electricity be made to pass through the chest, when a skilful person can be procured to apply it; and apply blisters to the breast.



*To prevent Danger from Exposure to the excessive Heat of the Sun.*

Disorders from this cause, or (as they are commonly termed) *strokes of the sun*, may be expected, when a person who is exposed to his rays is affected with a violent head-ache, attended with throbbing or with giddiness; where the disorder takes place, these symptoms are followed by faintness and great insensibility, with violent heat and dryness of the skin, redness and dryness of the eyes, difficulty of breathing, and, according as the disease is more or less violent, with a difficulty, or entire inability of speaking or moving.

To guard against these dangerous effects of heat, it will be proper,

1. To avoid labour, or violent exercise, or exposing yourself to the rays of the sun, immediately after eating a hearty meal :

2. To avoid drinking spirits of any kind, when you are thus exposed. These add an internal fire to the heat of the sun. Vinegar and water, sweetened with molasses or brown sugar, butter-milk and water, small beer, whey, or milk and water, are the most proper drinks for people who are exposed to excessive heat. But the less a person drinks of liquors of any kind *in the forenoon*, the better will he endure the heat of a warm day.

3. To wear a white hat, or to cover a black one with white paper, when you are necessarily exposed to the hot sun, and to avoid standing still when in such a situation.

4. To retire into the shade as soon as you begin to be affected with pain or throbbing in the head, with giddiness or with faintness.

If these precautions have been neglected, and the symptoms above described have come on, it will be proper,

1. To remove the person so affected into a cool, dry place, and to loosen all his garments, particularly those around his neck and breast.

2. To examine whether the pulse at the wrists or temples beats forcibly, and if it does, to bleed immediately; but if the pulse be weak, or cannot be perceived, bleeding must not be performed.

3. To place his feet and legs (or if it can be done) the lower half of his body in warm water. But if this remedy fails,

4. To apply linen clothes wet with cold water, or with cold water and vinegar, to the temples and all over the head.

5. To administer plentiful draughts of vinegar and water sweetened.

In all cases of this kind, a physician should be sent for, unless the patient recovers speedily.



## AGRICULTURAL.

*Important Information in Agriculture and Gardening.*

A VERY sensible writer in the Register, on the subject of fruit trees, observes, that "*the want of rules and directions is not half so much to be lamented as the general want of care.*" This observation, it is believed, may, with great truth be applied to farming-men (to others as well) in the management of many of their affairs; and, perhaps, never more justly, than in *their choice of seed* for planting or sowing. It is generally known that seed for this purpose ought to be selected from *plants of the greatest perfection*; yet, how few do we find exercising this care in a proper way!

Now is the season for calling up the attention to this subject, in order to be prepared for the *seed-time* of another year. We have accordingly selected the following letter from JOSEPH COOPER, Esq. of *New Jersey*, to a gentleman in *Philadelphia*, on this subject, as exhibiting to our agricultural friends, *a just pattern for their imitation.*

*Cooper's Point, April 17, 1799.*

RESPECTED FRIEND,

KIND Providence having placed me in a station of life which obliged me to procure a living by industry, and that principally in the agricultural line, it has caused me to be a strict observer of the works of nature, with respect to such parts of the vegetable creation as have come under my particular notice, and have been greatly embarrassed at the opinion very generally entertained by farmers and gardeners, that changing seeds, roots and plants to distant places, or different soils or climates, is beneficial to agriculture, not agreeing with my observations or practice. This induced me to make many experiments on that head, all of which in more than forty years practice have operated to prove to my satisfaction, that the above opinion is not well founded, and if so, must be extremely prejudicial to agriculture, as it turns the attention of the husbandman from what appears to me one great object, viz. that of selecting seeds and roots for planting or sowing, from such vegetables as come to the greatest perfection in the soil which he cultivates.

What induced me to make experiments on that head, was, observing that all kinds of vegetables were continually varying



in their growth, quality, production and time of maturity. This led me to believe that the great Author of nature, has so constructed that wonderful machine, if I may be allowed the expression, as to incline every kind of soil and climate to naturalize all kinds of vegetables, that it will produce at any rate, the better to suit them, if the agriculturalists will do their part in selecting the most proper seed. In support of which I will take the liberty of subjoining a few facts and experiments, out of an inconceivable number which have all combined to prove the above to my satisfaction.

In, or about the year 1746, my father procured the seeds of the long warty squash, which have been kept on the farm ever since, without changing, and are now far preferable to what they were at first. Our early peas were procured from London the spring before Braddock's defeat, and have been planted successively every season since on the place. They have not been changed, and are now preferable to what they were when first obtained. The seed of our asparagus was procured from New York, in the year 1752, since which time I have not planted a seed but what grew on my beds, and by selecting the seed, from the largest stalks, I have improved it greatly.

A complaint is very general, that potatoes of every kind degenerate at which I am not surprised, when the most proper means to produce that effect is constantly practised; to wit, using or selling the best, and planting the refuse; by which means almost the whole of those planted are the produce of plants the most degenerated. The consideration of which induced me to try an opposite method. Having often observed that some plants or vines produced potatoes larger, better shaped, and in greater abundance than others, without any apparent reason except the operations of nature, it induced me to save a quantity from such only for planting the ensuing season, and I was highly gratified in finding their production exceed that of others of the same kind, planted at the same time, and with every equal advantage, beyond my expectation, in size, shape, and quantity: this induced me to continue the practice, and I am satisfied that I have been fully compensated for all the additional trouble.

A circumstance happened respecting potatoes, which may be worth relating; a woman whom I met in market requested me to bring half a bushel of sweet potatoes for seed the next market day, which I promised to do, but going through the market on that day, previous to her son's coming for the potatoes, I observed the woman selling such as I had brought for her: when the boy came, I asked him the reason



they wanted potatoes for seed, while they were selling their own; his answer was that his father said, if they did not get seed from me once in three or four years, their potatoes would be good for nothing. *Query*, if he had used the same means in selecting his potatoes for planting as I did, whether he would have profited by changing with one who used the other method?

In discoursing with a friend who lived at a great distance from me, on the above subject, he introduced two instances in favor of changing seed; one was asparagus, the other radish seed, he had from me; the production of both he said was preferable to any thing of the kind ever seen in that neighborhood, which was near 100 miles distant, to which he ascribed the benefit; but in two or three years the radishes degenerated so as to be no better than what he had before. I asked his method of saving seed; he said he had no other radishes in his garden, and when they had pulled what was fit for use, let the others go to seed. I then told him my method, viz.—As soon as radishes are fit for use, I dig up ten or twelve of those which please me best, as to colour, shape, &c. and plant them at least 100 yards from where any others bloom at the time they do: this, I informed him, was the best method I knew of, to improve any kind of vegetables, varying the process agreeable to their nature; and as he had, in my opinion, taken the most proper method to degenerate his, I asked if he thought I should be benefited by exchanging with him? His answer was, he believed I was the best gardener.

In, or about the year 1772, a friend sent me a few grains of a small kind of Indian corn, the grains of which were not larger than goose shot, which he informed me, by a note in which they were enclosed, were originally from Guinea, and produced from eight to ten ears on a stalk. Those grains I planted, and found the production to answer the description, but the ears small, and few of them ripe before frost. I saved some of the largest and earliest, and planted it between rows of larger and earlier kinds of corn, which produced a mixture to advantage; then I saved seed from stalks that produced the greatest number of the largest ears, and first ripe, which I planted the ensuing season and was not a little gratified to find its production preferable both in quantity and quality to that of any corn I had ever planted. This kind of corn I have continued planting ever since, selecting that designed for seed in the manner I would wish others to try, viz.—When the first ears are ripe enough for seed, gather a sufficient quantity for early corn, or replanting; and at the time you would wish



your corn to be ripe generally, gather a sufficient quantity for planting the next year, having particular care to take it from stalks that are large at bottom, of a regular taper, not over tall, the ears set low, and containing the greatest number of good fizeable ears of the best quality; let it dry speedily; and from the corn gathered as last described, plant your main crop, and if any hills should be missing, replant from that first gathered, which will cause the crop to ripen more regularly than is common, which is a great benefit. The above mentioned I have practised many years, and am satisfied it has increased the quantity, and improved the quality of my crops beyond what any person would imagine, who has not tried the experiments. The distance of planting corn, and number of grains in a hill, are matters many differ in; perhaps different soils may require a difference in both these respects; but in every kind of soil I have tried, I find planting the rows six feet asunder each way, as near at right angles as may be, and leaving not more than four stalks in a hill, produces the best crop. The common method of saving seed corn, by taking the ears from the heap, or crib, is attended with two disadvantages; one is, the taking the largest ears, which have generally grown but one on a stalk; this lessens the production. The other is, taking ears that have ripened at different times, which causes the production to do the same.

A striking instance of plants being naturalized happened by Colonel Matlock sending some water-melon seed from Georgia, which he informed me by a letter were of superior quality; knowing seed from vegetables which had grown in more southern climates required a longer summer than what grew here, I gave them the most favourable situation, and used glasses to bring them forward, yet very few ripened to perfection; but finding them to be as excellent in quality as described, I saved seed from those first ripe; and by continuing that practice four or five years, they became as early water-melons as I ever had.

Many admit the above errors from foreign flax seed producing the best flax in Ireland; but when it is considered that it is the bark of the stalk only, that is used in Ireland, which is in the best perfection before the seed is ripe, and that part not used from any other plant except hemp, the argument falls to the ground when applied to other vegetables.

For many years past, I have renewed the whole seed of my winter grain, from a single plant which I have observed to be more productive, and of better quality than the rest, which I am satisfied, has been of great use. And I am fully of opinion, that all kinds of garden vegetables may be improved by the foregoing methods; particular care being taken that different



kinds of the same species of vegetables are not in bloom at the same time near together, as by that happening, they mix, degenerate, and each kind is injured.

I am sensible the foregoing will meet with great opposition and contradiction, but as an experiment is safe and easy, I hope it will induce persons of more leisure, ability, and observation than myself, to make trial, as a mean of improving the agriculture of our country, which is the sincere wish of thy friend,  
JOSEPH COOPER.

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*Potatoes preferable to a Summer-fallow for Wheat.*

*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. SAMUEL AUSTIN, of Worcester, to the Editor ; dated at Worcester, Feb. 24, 1806.*

“THERE is one species of husbandry, not in general practice, in which I have made some experiments with very considerable success ; that is, *to substitute a crop of potatoes in the room of a summer fallow\** as a preparation for wheat. Wheat is doubtless the best and the most profitable grain that can be raised. No species of vegetable adds so much ornament to a country, and none affords a more essential or grateful part of that aliment by which human life is preserved. The potatoe also is a valuable root. For the horse it is an excellent and healthful substitute, for the green grass which he crops in his summer pasture, and seems nearly indispensable to be united with his dry winter fodder, to preserve him from those diseases to which he is so exposed in the cold season. Every intelligent farmer knows its value for feeding his swine, his sheep, and his cattle ; and no crop is more sure or more easily raised ; none is so plentiful. Warm, loamy land, and such is the greatest part of this Commonwealth, well manured, will yield *three hundred bushels* to the acre. They may be taken off, if planted in season, by the middle of September, and the ground will be in the best situation to put in immediately a crop of wheat. This is altogether better than summer fallowing, and the crop of potatoes is a clear saving. I have, in this way, had *twenty five* bushels of most excellent winter wheat on the acre. I have now a piece of land under wheat according to this mode of management, which is of so promising an appearance as to be noticed with special attention by my neighbors. The land ought to have an early fall plowing, if under a binding sward, and the potatoes should be hoed twice. If this mode of agriculture should go into general practice, the probability is that it would add materially to the prosperity of our country.”

\* *Summer tilling ; or letting land rest from one crop without being seeded.*

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

## ARTICLE XX.

*Result of Meteorological and other Observations, for June, 1806; made at DEERFIELD, WARWICK,\* MASON, and BOSTON:— For the Medical and Agricultural Register.*

| June, 1806. | Mean degs. at sun-rise. | Mean degs. at 2 P. M. | Mean degree of the month. | Greatest heat in the month. | Least heat in the month. | Prevailing winds. | Marriages. | Births. | Deaths. |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Deerfield   | 57½                     | 79                    | 68                        | 8th day† 92°                | 3d day 42°               | S. & S. W.        |            |         | 1       |
| Warwick     | 55½                     | 79                    | 67                        | 5 92                        | 3 41                     | W. & N. W.        | 7          | 1       |         |
| Mason       | 63½                     | 73½                   | 68                        | 23 84                       | 16 54                    | W. & N. W.        |            |         |         |
| Boston      | 60                      | 75½                   | 67                        | 23 92                       | 16 41                    | Variable.         |            |         |         |

## WEATHER.

|                                                                                |                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> day, Sunday, cloudy, Full Moon. shower, thunder and lightning. | 16—clear hem- Total eclipse of the Sun. isphere; Warw. frost in low places. |
| 2—cloudy, fair, brisk winds; Boston, sprink. of rain; Deerfield, fair day.     | 17 } fair; light shower, at Warw. more                                      |
| 3 }                                                                            | 18 } copious.                                                               |
| 4 } fair, some clouds.                                                         | 19—fair; Boston and Mason, shower in the night.                             |
| 5 }                                                                            | 20—cloudy, fair, shower in the even. thunder and much lightning.            |
| 6 }                                                                            | 21—flying clouds and very high winds.                                       |
| 7—foggy morning, cloudy, fair.                                                 | 22—Sund. a clear hemisphere.                                                |
| 8 } Sund. foggy morns. light shower,                                           | 23 } Moon's first quarter.                                                  |
| 9 } thun. & light. Moon's last quarter.                                        | 24 }                                                                        |
| 10—cloudy, fair.                                                               | 25 }                                                                        |
| 11—cloudy, rain.                                                               | 26 } fair weather, some clouds.                                             |
| 12 }                                                                           | 27 }                                                                        |
| 13 } alternate clouds and sunshine.                                            | 28 }                                                                        |
| 14—fair.                                                                       | 29 } Sund.                                                                  |
| 15—Sund. sprink. of rain; Boston, 2 fine shower.                               | 30—cloudy, rain. Full Moon.                                                 |

*Depth of rain fallen in June, taken in inches and 100th parts of an inch.*

|                     | Inches. | 100ths. |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Warwick, - - - - -  | 2       | 00      |
| Townsend, - - - - - | 1       | 15      |

The rains, many of them, this month have not been more than a dew. That which fell on the 30th, at Warwick, *one inch*, was at Townsend but *one fourth of an inch*. The rain, however, at night was continuing.

\* Warwick (Mass.) is situated on the north line of the state, seven miles east of Connecticut River.

† The same day, at Warwick, the range of the mercury, in the thermometer, at one o'clock P. M. was 91½°, but a cloud coming over with a sprinkling of rain, the mercury at two o'clock had descended to 76°.



The depth of rain in *May*, as transmitted to us by "*A Smithfield Subscriber*," was *one inch and three-tenths of an inch*. We solicit our correspondent for a continuance of his observations. Those for *May* were received too late for publication in our last number. His observations for *June* had not been received at the time this article went to the press. Our correspondents, engaged in making meteorological and other observations, will be so good as to notice, that it is necessary their observations should be received at least *eight days previous to the day of our publication*.

Smithfield, in the state of Rhode Island, is 30 miles S. W. by S. from Boston. Rose bugs made their appearance in this place on the 14th of June, but not in such multitudes as they have done for several years past. From the same source we learn, that the canker rash has been very prevalent and mortal among children in Providence.

*Warwick, June, 1806.*

The 1st of this month apple blossoms had fallen from the trees, and the fruit completely formed: 7th, remarkably dry, and the most of our garden vegetables destroyed by insects; small black flies have been particularly noticed: 9th, blossoms appeared on winter rye and red clover: 21st, we experienced an extraordinary high wind from the south-west, which had an uncommon effect upon the fruit trees, plants, &c. leaving the appearance of a hard frost, or scorch of fire. Winter rye, on high ground, has suffered some from the drought, but in general has a promising appearance. The prospect of fruit is small. Grass very small and thin. People generally engaged in haying on the 30th.

The month has been very healthy.

W. COBB, JUN.

#### NOTE.

The uncommon effect of the wind of the 21st, as noticed by our correspondent, has been remarked by others, in different places. At Townsend the wind, for a time, was thought to be equally strong as in the memorable north-east storm of the 9th of October, 1804, although the day was fair, excepting some flying clouds. The effect of the wind on fruit trees, in this place, was noticed to be such as above described: leaving on the leaves of these trees the appearance of their having been scorched by fire. This appearance was thought to be more distinctly marked on the *windward side* of the trees, and hence was supposed to be an effect or some way consequent on the wind. This appearance was first noticed on the morning of the succeeding day.



*Melancholy Effects of Lightning.*

The following is an extract of a letter from the Rev. EBENEZER HILL, to the Editor, dated Mason, June 11, 1806.

"On Sabbath day, first instant, the house of Mr. Joel Kendall, of Dublin, was struck by lightning, about five o'clock P. M. It seems the lightning first struck the chimney, and proceeded down the two middle pair of principals, which were much shattered. From the plates, its course was down the middle posts. Mr. Joel Kendall and his brother Benjamin Kendall of Mason, were sitting *near a post*, down which the greatest quantity of the fluid it seems passed, as this post was the most shivered of any. Mrs. Kendall, and her eldest son, about 17 years of age, were standing in an adjoining room, or back kitchen, near a sink, and nearly in the direction between a door communicating with the room in which were the two Mr. Kendalls, and an outer door; at this door the lightning passed out, and entered the ground a few feet distant from the house. Mrs. Kendall and her son instantly fell. Mrs. Kendall recovered very soon, and attempted to raise her son, but alas, he could rise no more! She then passed into the next room, and there were extended on the floor her husband and her brother, lifeless corpses. There were five or six children in the house, and none of them injured. The house was set on fire, but discovered by the neighbors, and by their timely assistance the fire was extinguished." [See page 101.]

Deerfield, June 30, 1806.

*Progress of vegetation, &c.*—Apple trees were observed to have their fruit formed the 4th. Our people began to mow the 15th. The crops of grass, in general, are rather light, owing probably to the early drought this season. The crops of rye are promising; but wheat does not appear so well, though there are some fine crops: I do not hear of much damage from the fly. Indian corn perhaps never appeared better. Our kitchen gardens are not so productive as usual: it is a general complaint that seeds failed; and many people were disappointed after a second and third sowing.

*State of health, &c.*—The month has been very healthy; we have no epidemic diseases, nor do I hear of any in the neighboring towns.

*Storms, &c.*—At Hadley, on Connecticut River, 14 miles south of this town, on the 1st of June, there was a violent storm of hail and rain, attended with lightning and thunder: the hail was very large, and being driven horizontally by a violent wind, most of the glass on the windward side of the houses was broken: crops on the ground suffered severely. This storm was not very extensive; it seems to have spent its



greatest force on Hadley. It was observed to pass to the south of Deerfield, but it had no uncommon appearance. More particulars of this storm have been published in the news papers. The 8th, a thunder storm, attended with hail, passed over Northfield, 14 miles north of us, which did considerable damage to their crops. The same day a hail storm passed over the town of Amherst, (lying east of Hadley,) which did considerable damage to the glass windows and crops. The 21st we had a strong wind from the south-west and west, which turned up trees with their roots: some cattle were killed in the pastures. It is remarked, that our most violent winds blow from the south-west quarter: according to my recollection, all those which have done any material damage, have come from this point.

I do not know that any particulars of the late extraordinary eclipse will be of use for your Register; but as you request information on every thing falling under my observation, which I shall think worthy of being recorded, I will take the liberty to present the following, for your disposal.

The day (June 16) was uncommonly clear, scarcely a cloud to be seen. Some time before the eclipse became total, the planet Venus appeared south-westerly of the sun. During total darkness the following stars were seen, viz. Aldebaran, or the Bull's Eye, about  $9^{\circ}$  south-west of the sun; several in the constellation of Orion, viz. those in the right and left shoulder, and the three in the belt. Sirius was conspicuous about  $46^{\circ}$  south-east from the sun. The north pole star, and several others of the same magnitude, were distinctly seen. The planets Mercury and Mars were visible, west of the sun, a little more north than Venus, and between the sun and that planet. The air changed very suddenly: the mercury in the thermometer fell to  $59^{\circ}$ : immediately after the eclipse it rose to  $72^{\circ}$ , in the shade. Many people put on additional clothing. It was observed, by those who were mowing, that the grass became wet with dew; this was so copious as to stand in small drops upon the leaves. Fowls retired to the roost; the night-hawk skimmed along the ground, as at the approach of night; and the whippoorwill gave us his solitary song. The darkness was so great, that it was necessary to light candles to read common printing.

During the continuance of total darkness, all was silence; an universal gloom sat upon the face of nature, and the gazing crowds were impressed with awe. The sun's rays shot out from behind the dark body of the moon; this radiated her margin in a most beautiful manner. In the middle of the eclipse the north and south points of the horizon appeared like the morning twilight, but in the east and west this twi-



light could not be seen, owing to the propinquity of our mountains. When the moon left the west limb of the sun the darkness disappeared instantaneously, as it does on bringing a lighted candle suddenly into a dark room, and the refulgent "orb of day" soon threw off the gloomy though pleasing sadness in which we had been enveloped.

The duration of total darkness, as nearly as we could determine by clocks and watches, was  $4\frac{1}{2}$  minutes; at Albany, Mr. De Witt made it 4 minutes 51 seconds. All the observations of which I have received any account, make the duration nearly double to that given by calculation.

*Query.*—Was not the diameter of the dark shadow greater than was supposed by the calculators?

By a mean of four observations on the total eclipse of the moon Jan. 15, 1805, I had fixed the longitude of this place at  $72^{\circ} 33' 15''$  west of Greenwich. It was my design to have made such observations, on the late eclipse of the sun, as would have enabled me to verify the longitude, or to determine it more accurately; but I was prevented from adjusting a clock previous to the eclipse, and therefore did not get the necessary data.

The latitude of Deerfield, as ascertained by a mean of several observations on the sun and stars, is  $42^{\circ} 26' 13''$  north.

E. HOYT.

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## N O T E S.

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"*OBSERVATIONS on the late Eclipse,*" made at Groton, have been received, but from a circumstance known to the writer, too late for this number; they will appear in our next.

"*Medical Extracts,*" Nos. 1 and 2, have also been received. Our correspondent will excuse us in retaining them on our files while dispensing with some *original*, and other more *temporary* matter.

SOME other communications, which it would be useless to particularize,

have also been received, and may expect our early attention next month.

### *Our Friends in Connecticut.*

ANY communications from our agricultural or medical friends in Connecticut, whose local situation may render it inconvenient for them to correspond with us *directly*, at Boston, they will please to take notice, would be very thankfully received through the hands of Messrs. *Lincoln & Gleason*, of Hartford, or Messrs. *Increase Cooke & Co.* of New Haven.

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CONDUCTED BY DANIEL ADAMS, M. B.

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